

Flood Risk

and the Statewide Flood Management Planning Program

FLOOD

RISK ASSESSMENT



The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) defines flood risk as the long-term average consequences of flood inundation, including both economic and life-safety consequences.

Flood risk components

- **Flood hazard:** Various types of flooding that can cause damage or harm
- **Loading:** A description of the likelihood that differing size water flows will occur at a specific location
- **Exposure:** A relationship between naturally occurring flows and potential consequences
- **Consequences:** Undesirable outcomes from floods

Characterizing flood risk in California

The Statewide Flood Management Planning Program is gathering existing studies and reports from throughout the state that describe and quantify the different components that represent flood risk.

The Statewide Flood Management Planning Program will use this information to produce a report titled: *Flood Future: Recommendations for Managing California's Flood Risk (Flood Future Report)*. The *Flood Future Report* will provide the first characterization of statewide flood risk, along with the challenges, opportunities and recommendations for improving and financing integrated flood management. A public review draft of the Flood Future Report will be available in 2012.

(continued)





The Statewide Flood Management Planning Program is led by the California Department of Water Resources through the FloodSAFE Initiative and the Division of Integrated Statewide Water Management; in collaboration with local, State and federal agencies and tribes throughout California.

The Statewide Flood Management Planning Program will help guide the State's decisions, and inform federal decisions, about policies and financial investments related to integrated flood management throughout California.



(continued)

In order to characterize the potential vulnerabilities and consequences of flooding throughout California, the *Flood Future Report* will illustrate where flood hazards exist, and highlight where people and property are located within floodplains.

Early information gathering efforts indicate that complete flood risk information is not available for most regions in the state. Therefore, the Statewide Flood Management Planning Program will overlay the best available maps that show the areas that would be inundated by floods, on maps of California's population and property. These combined maps will identify the populations and property subject to damage from a 100-year flood and a 500-year flood.

While this information does not provide a complete description of flood risk, it does allow for comparisons of the relative concentrations of population and property that are located within floodplains throughout California.

For areas of California where information is available on all components of flood risk, the *Flood Future Report* will present the long-term average consequences (economic and life safety) of flood inundation.

For more information, visit: www.water.ca.gov/sfmp

FloodSAFE:

The Department of Water Resources launched FloodSAFE in 2006 to address the increasing flood risks throughout California. FloodSAFE is a multi-faceted initiative designed to improve flood management in the state, using a system-wide approach while also carrying out regional projects, and enhancing DWR's core flood management programs already in place. FloodSAFE has five primary goals:

- Reduce the chance of flooding
- Reduce the consequences of flooding
- Sustain economic growth
- Protect and enhance ecosystems
- Promote sustainability of the flood management system

For more information, visit www.water.ca.gov/floodsafe